



CO. LONGFORD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

PPN NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017 EDITION



*Co Longford PPN : linking community groups with Longford County Council and other decision making bodies.
Have a say in the development of your County for now and future generations!!*



Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin January 2017

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1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

Public Participation Network update:

Meetings held/ planned:

- URBACT Local Group Linkage group meeting/elections held 9th January 2017
- PPN Secretariat workplan review meeting held 18th January 2017
- Ballymahon MD Rep election for County Longford Tourism Committee held Mon 23rd January 2017
- National PPN workers Meeting, Custom House, Dublin 26th Jan. To attended by resource worker
- National Advisory Group Meeting will be attended by Tess Murphy, PPN Secretariat Memeber

Community Representative Vacancies: LEADER Evaluation Committee

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) are currently in the process of establishing the **LEADER Evaluation Committee** and require one community representative from the Community and Voluntary college and one community representative from the Social Inclusion college.

The specified criteria for PPN community representatives going forward for the vacancies are as follows:

- Have previous experience or expertise in evaluation of project proposals seeking funding and an ability to assess project submissions.
- Have knowledge of the principles and objectives of the LEADER programme or similar local development initiatives.
- Have particular expertise in the areas covered by the LEADER programme themes incl. Economic and enterprise development, Tourism, Rural Environment, Heritage, Social inclusion, etc.

If your community group is interested in nominating a group member for the vacancies then please submit the name and contact details of the nominee by post, e-mail or phone to the PPN Office. The deadline for submission is **Friday 27th January 2017.**



Seeking a parent rep for consultation

Longford Childcare has been asked by Túsla (the child and family agency) to seek a parent representative who would be interested in taking part in a Túsla consultation on the **28th January 2017**.

Túsla have been developing a Quality & Regulatory Framework which is intended as a guidance document to assist Early Years' Services to comply with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. They are in the process of meeting with a number of stakeholders and intend to complete the preliminary consultation process by the end of February 2017.

Túsla would greatly value the contribution of parents and would like to meet with them to discuss the work to date. Túsla will meet with the parents on Saturday 28th January in the morning, details as below.

Date: Saturday 28th January 2017

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Kilmainham , Dublin

Meeting time with parents: 11am -13.00 pm

Each County Childcare Committee has been asked to nominate one rep to ensure geographical spread. Therefore, if you are interested in taking part in this consultation please forward me your name and contact details as soon as possible so that I can forward on your expression of interest.

(*nominal expenses will be paid in line with CCC financial guidelines)

Contact Details: Eimear Carron LCCC Coordinator

P: 043 33 42505

F: 043 33 42504

E-mail: Eimear@longfordchildcare.ie

Newly elected PPN Rep on the URBACT Local Group (ULG)

The PPN would like to congratulate the following PPN rep's who were elected on to the ULG to represent not just the views of their own groups but the views of all groups in the ULG Linkage Group:

- Noel Lee
- Hugh Farrell
- Shane Crossan

Newly elected PPN Rep on Co. Longford Tourism Board

Following on from the Co Longford Tourism Committee vacancy for a Ballymahon Municipal District Rep the Co Longford PPN would like to announce that:

- Matt Farrell was elected as the PPN rep
- Joe O' Brien as the substitute rep.

The PPN would like to congratulate both Matt and Joe and wish them well in the new role. There are now a total of three PPN Reps on the Tourism Board.

General:

The PPN Facebook page is [Longford Public Participation Network](https://www.facebook.com/Longford-Public-Participation-Network/1583548325216241). Please copy and paste the following URL below if you cannot get direct access from link above:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Longford-Public-Participation-Network/1583548325216241>?



If your group has any information they would like posted please contact us on Facebook where we will share your information or if you are not on Facebook e-mail ppn@longfordcoco.ie and we will post it on your behalf. *Don't forget to "Like" and "Share" our page!!*

Follow us on Twitter @LongfordPPN

If there are any community group's you know who are not yet registered with the Longford PPN they are invited to do so by downloading the form at www.longfordcoco.ie , e-mail ppn@longfordcoco.ie or contact Siobhán at 087 261 5583

2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?

New for the month of January / February:

Longford Flower Club: On Tuesday at 8.00pm, Valentine's Night there will be a demonstration of floral art by Sharon O'Sullivan entitled 'Love is in the Air'. The venue is Sylvia Dawson Hall, admission €6 (including light supper). All welcome.

Cullyfad Community Group: had a very enjoyable and successful December programme of events. Weekly Wednesday night bingo encompassed the spirit of Christmas with an abundance of extra prizes. Christmas Santa party was very successful, with the good man himself in attendance and arrived in splendid style. Professional entertainment provided children entertainment show. We thank all the community who volunteered their time face-painting, baking and serving afternoon tea etc. We thank all the families who gave a donation on the day and we forwarded a contribution to the Shannon-side Christmas Jumper appeal for the Lions Club. We invite everyone to support our weekly bingo to enable us to continue to benefit our local community.

Rath Mhuire & Dolmen Community Resource Services (Barrack St. Granard. Phone – 043 – 6686309. Email rathmhuirerc@eircom.net) :

As we start the year we would like to take the opportunity to wish each and everyone good health & happiness for 2017. All our groups will be commencing in the coming weeks (dates as below) and in the coming months we will be covering a range of topics and activities including, Information & Advocacy, Meals, Transport, Health & Well Being Sessions, Gardening, Woodwork, Arts & Crafts, Cookery, Social & Music Events, Trips & Outings, Intergenerational Projects, Bealtaine Events, Literary Events and Historical/Heritage Events.

Moatsider's Active Retirement Group

First meeting date is on Thursday, February 2nd @ 2. 30pm in Rath Mhuire Centre, we hope everyone can be there as we will be planning for the coming Spring/Summer schedule.

We would like to take the opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to Bridie Reilly, one of our most active members, and her family, on the passing of her son Thomas. We wish Bridie and her family comfort and healing in the difficult days ahead.

Rath Mhuire Men's Social Club: Our first date for 2017 is Tuesday 31st January at 12.30 in Rath Mhuire Centre and we look forward to seeing everyone.

Granard Writers: We will be meeting on Monday 31st January at 3.00pm in Rath Mhuire Centre. We promote creative writing in a relaxed and informal setting and always welcome new participants and voices.



Granard Area Historical Society: We will be meeting on Thursday 2nd February at 7.30pm in Rath Mhuire Centre. Our speaker for the evening will be Kitty Hughes, to give a talk on the late Dr. Victorine May Yorke-Pettit who has very strong associations with Granard and made an outstanding contribution to the health and welfare of people in County Longford. Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 19th January in Rath Mhuire Centre at 1.00pm to outline schedule for 2017.

Dolmen Centre – Aughnaclyffe:

Dolmen Fáilte Active Retirement Group: Tuesday 24th January @ 2.00pm in the Dolmen Centre.

Dolmen Daycare Services: Wednesday 25th January @ 12 noon in the Dolmen Centre.

North Longford Men: Friday 3rd February @ 12 noon in the Dolmen Centre

We always give a very warm welcome to new members who would like to participate in any of our groups or activities and for any information on any of the above, contact Jackie or Lucy @ 043-6686309. Transport available for both Centres.

Lus Na Greine, Granard:

Gentle chair exercise class for 50 and over every Friday morning from 11am to 12.30. Going at your own pace, to work on toning, flexibility and balance. Finish off with some nice relaxing meditation 5euro per class

Steps to Assertiveness 6 week Course: Working to build on self confidence and self esteem, positive thinking techniques and setting goals for the future.

Starting Thursday evening 2nd February 7pm to 9pm. 10euro per class. Booking required. Tel 0436660977

Granard Men's Shed Club, Every Wed @ 8.00pm if you're looking to come together to take part in community projects and activities. Always looking for new ideas in Woodwork, Mechanics and new developments For more information call William on 0868226523.

Longford Women's Link January 2017

LWL one of four national winners of the Ulster Bank Skills and Opportunities Fund.

In December 2016, Ulster Bank announced the winners of its second round of the 2016 Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund. A total of €108,000 will be invested in four community projects across the country. The aim of the fund is to support community projects that help people access education and employment or to start a business. Of the four projects funded, one of those is Longford Women's Link which provides education and training opportunities for women in the Longford area, including third level outreach. The organisation celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2015 and the overall vision is to help women in Longford achieve their full potential in a safe and equal society. The group will receive [£34,445] to establish a Retail Skills Training and Mentoring Programme offering enterprise, education and employment for women from disadvantaged areas of the midlands. The fund will enable the women to benefit from accredited training in retail skills and associated employment opportunities.



Shane Brennan Annual 5km Run

LWL would like to express sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the recent Shane Brennan Annual 5km run on St. Stephen's Day. We were overwhelmed by the numbers who turned out to support this great event. Thank you to the Shane Brennan Committee for selecting LWL as their chosen charity for 2016. We will publish the final total raised as soon as it is available – our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LongfordWomensLink/>) and local media will be updated.

Longford Women's Manifesto Group

Longford Women's Manifesto Group will be having their first meeting of 2017 in February. If you have an interest in how decisions are made in your local community and would like to be involved in this dynamic group please email tarafarrell@lwl.ie for more details. All meeting dates are on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/WomensManifesto/> so just like to stay updated.

LWL Willow Traders – NewToYou

Longford Women's Link new furniture and clothing social enterprise is open from Monday-Saturday 10am-5.30pm. We are looking for volunteers at our furniture and clothing enterprise! There are a variety of volunteer roles - sales, sorting through clothing donations, furniture removals etc. Training will be provided and regular volunteer hours are available. If you're interested please email managerwillowtraders@lwl.ie or phone **Dee on 085 252 1701** for an application form. Garda Vetting will be required for all volunteers. See our Facebook page for regular updates (LWL Willow Traders – NewToYou)

Training at LWL – Occupational First Aid

Occupational First Aid -QQI - Level 5 - 5N1207

Saturday - 4, 11 & 18 February 2017

OR

Tuesday - 28 February, 7 & 14 March 2017

Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm

Venue: Longford Women's Link

It is essential to attend all 3 dates.

Please contact LWL for further information at 043 3341511

Would you like a career in Childcare?

LWL is the lead sponsor of the DSP Community Employment Childcare Scheme in County Longford. If you think you might be eligible then please give Kathleen or Siobhan a call on 043 3341511.

Participation is free and you will achieve a QQI Level 5 Childcare qualification which will enable you to obtain employment in a childcare facility or progress into further education in related areas.

Participation time on the programme is 19.5 hours per week and persons are eligible to remain on this programme for a period of 3 years.

Eligibility criteria:



- 21 years of age or over and are in receipt of a social welfare/ DSP payments for 1 year or more.
OR

- 18 years or over in receipt of disability-related payments

If you have Refugee Status or are a member of the Traveller Community and are aged 18 or over you may also be eligible.

If you qualify under the criteria but do not wish to take up the option yourself, there are certain conditions under which you can do a spousal swap.

Longford Women's Link Counselling Service

For the last 16 years Longford Women's Link has been providing a professional counselling service for clients from Longford and the surrounding counties. In 2011 we opened our dedicated counselling rooms which were designed to provide a welcoming, safe space to our clients. All Clients can come to our centre without anyone knowing why they are here as we have so many different services with up to 50 clients a day coming through our doors for services such as Childcare and Training & Education. The counselling suite is warm and comfortable, located in a private section of the main building with its own dedicated waiting area.

We offer counselling for whatever issue or problem a client may have. Our counsellors are professionally qualified and accredited and skilled in the areas where clients today most need support. They will explore all issues and help clients find a way through any difficulties they may be experiencing. We are here to help all clients from the age of 18 onwards. Some clients come for a short time and some come for many years. It is up to the clients when they are ready to finish counselling. If childcare is an issue, we have added supports in our services where a place can be booked in our child care service, Catkins Nursery.

Our staff are very helpful and will look for appointments that suit your schedule, including evenings if required. Longford Women's Link offers counselling and therapy on a pay what you can afford basis. Fees are on a sliding scale and negotiable based on ability to pay which can be discussed with your counsellor during the initial consultation.

Rape Crisis is an additional service accessible in our centre, and is available two days a week as an outreach service from Athlone Midland Rape Crisis Centre.

We are here to help and support. Please **FREEPHONE 1800 306 600 for Rape Crisis** or ring **Longford Women's Link's main office on 043 3341511 for general counselling information or to make an appointment.**

Longford Women's Link Domestic Violence Service

Longford Women's Link Domestic Violence Service is a free and confidential service that supports women who have or are currently experiencing Domestic Violence or Abuse. We are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. If you need help or advice for yourself or someone you know please telephone 043 3341511 and one of our Domestic Violence Specialists will return your call at a time that is safe for you.

LWLDVS does not operate a refuge but our professional specialists provide practical support such as Court Accompaniment or help with Social Welfare claims and entitlements plus emotional support and helping women plan ways to keep safe.

We support women whether they choose to leave or stay in abusive relationships.



Please phone 043 3341511 for an appointment or to speak to someone in confidence.

Backstage Theatre: Same Old Moon shows us scenes in the life of Brenda Barnes, the aspiring writer. We follow her from age nine to fortyish, and see through her eyes her eccentric and sometimes fiery Irish family - her wilful and self-destructive Dad, her put-upon, sometimes hot-tempered Mum and many others. A charming, but not uncritical, look at family life.

The cast of 8 actors, some playing multiple roles, is Christine o Brien, Davy Flaherty, Declan Neville, Eileen Murphy, Niamh Quinn-Hanley, Mary Killane, Maureen Dunne and Phil Cox.

The play is being directed by Ollie Kenny who recently gave Longford audiences the highly acclaimed production of Blythe Spirit.

The play will run in Backstage Theatre from February 16-19. Tickets are available now from theatre box office on 0433347888 and www.backstage.ie

Templemichael College: Would you like to read with your child at home?

Paired Reading Course starting Friday, 27th of January in Temple Michael College from 9.30- 11.30am. For further information, Please contact Linda Doorley HSCL Co-ordinator at 085 8086779.

3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES:

Longford Volunteer Centre: Volunteer Opportunities

Springlawn RCDG [Volunteer Gardener](#) required to help with maintenance of gardens and planting in Springlawn.

Coderdojo Longford require an [IT Mentor](#) to help young people build and develop their computer and coding skills. A rota system is in place, so people do not have to volunteer everyweek

Irish Girl Guides have groups in different parts of Co. Longford and require volunteers to help deliver programs to girls of different age groups. Full training and support is given. It is an excellent opportunity to develop life and leadership skills.

Bridgeways Family Resource Centre in Ballymahon has the following volunteering opportunities:

Homework Club Assistants

Foroige/ Youth Club Volunteers Thursday Evenings 4 - 6.30

Fundraising/ Event Management Volunteer

Group facilitators/ programme development - Men's, Women's and Parent & Toddler Group - Approx 2- 3 hours 1 day per week per group

DIY Volunteer



Friends of Asthma Society Charity Shop Ballymahon - [Volunteer Retail Assistant](#)

Friends of Children of Chernobyl Longford - [Committee Members](#)

St. Christopher's Leisure Buddy Program - [Senior](#) and [Youth](#) Buddy Volunteers required in Ballymahon, Longford Town, Granard, and Edgeworthstown. Support and supervision provided.

Longford Westmeath Community Mothers require [volunteers](#) to visit families with young children to offer peer support. Volunteers who can speak Russian, Lithuanian or Polish are especially welcome.

We have many other volunteering opportunities on our website. Please click [here](#) to view other opportunities. If you have any queries or wish to apply for the opportunities above, please contact Angela on 087 7594770 or email Angela@volunteerlongford.ie



Grants Information Seminar 2017

The Community Foundation for Ireland is one of Ireland's largest independent grant makers. Since 2000 we have made cumulative grants of €30 million from our own funds and on behalf of our donors.

WHEN?

12pm to 2pm, Wednesday 1st February 2017

WHERE?

Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate Street, Athlone

OVERVIEW

The Community Foundation for Ireland invites community and voluntary organisations to join us for an introduction to our grant making priorities for 2017. We will outline how to make a good grant application and the focus of the rounds open for applications in 2017; LGBT and Migrants (projects working with migrants who are members of the LGBT community), Leadership for Ethnic Minority groups and The Older Persons' Fund. ***We recommend this seminar only for those who have not attended a grantee seminar before, as much of the information will be the same!***

We will be joined by Business in the Community's Community Outreach Executive, who will describe how you can make the most of partnerships with corporates

AGENDA

Registration, Tea and Coffee

Introduction to CFI grants and overview of Online applications.

2017 grants rounds – (a) LGBT and Migrants (projects working with migrants who are members of the LGBT community), (b) Leadership for Ethnic Minority groups (c) The Older Persons' Fund

BITCI's Community Outreach – overview of corporate partnerships

Q&A and close

HOW TO REGISTER

Please register for this seminar by clicking [here](#). Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

HSE MIDLANDS (Laois/Offaly and Longford/Westmeath) Suicide Behaviour Awareness and Training Programmes - 2017

A.S.I.S.T. (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) is a 2-day skills based, intensive, interactive and practice-dominated Workshop designed to help Caregivers recognise the immediate risk of suicide and learn how to respond and be in a position to provide immediate safety, help and information to individuals whose lives may be at risk.



| DATE | VENUE: | DATE: | VENUE: |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| January 11 th / 12 th | Portlaoise, Co. Laois | June 14 th / 15 th | Athlone, Co. Westmeath. |
| February 1 st / 2 nd | Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. | July 3 rd / 4 th | Tullamore, Co. Offaly. |
| February 22 nd / 23 rd | Athlone, Co. Westmeath. | September 13 th /14 th | Portlaoise, Co. Laois. |
| March 13 th / 14 th | Tullamore, Co. Offaly | September 27 th / 28 th | Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. |
| April 5 th / 6 th | Longford, Co. Longford. | October 18 th / 19 th | Longford, Co. Longford. |
| May 10 th / 11 th | Portlaoise, Co. Laois. | November 8 th / 9 th | Athlone, Co. Westmeath. |
| May 24 th / 25 th | Mullingar, Co. Westmeath | December 4 th / 5 th | Tullamore, Co. Offaly. |

Understanding Self-Harm (USH)

This 1 day awareness training programme covers issues relating to self-harm including definitions, prevalence rates, myths, causes, why people self-harm and helpful responses. DVD clips containing contributions from service providers and individuals with lived life experience of self-harm supplement the programme.

| DATE | VENUE: | DATE: | VENUE: |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| February 7 th : | Longford, Co. Longford. | October 3 rd : | Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. |
| February 9 th : | Tullamore, Co. Offaly. | October 5 th : | Portlaoise, Co. Laois. |
| May 16 th : | Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. | Nov 21 st : | Athlone, Co. Westmeath. |
| May 18 th : | Tullamore, Co. Offaly. | Nov 23 rd : | Portlaoise, Co. Laois. |



SafeTALK is a 3½ hr 'suicide alertness' programme that prepares participants to identify and engage with persons who may be having thoughts of suicide by using the steps of **TALK (Tell, Ask, Listen and Keepsafe)** Information on supports and resources available locally, regionally and nationally are also provided. Training programmes are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Tullamore: 19 th January / 4 th April / 13 th June / 24 th October / 28 th November. | Portlaoise: 15 th February / 11 th April / 18 th September / 7 th November. | Athlone: 17 February/ 19 May/ 22 September/ 8 December. | Mullingar: 15 th March/ 22 nd June/ 12 th October/ 28 th November. | Longford: 27 th April/ 27 th July/ 16 th November. |
|--|--|--|---|---|

To register interest/participation on an A.S.I.S.T. Workshop, the Understanding Self-Harm Programme or Safe-TALK training, contact the HSE Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention as follows:

Laois/Offaly: Josephine Rigney: Email: josephine.rigney@hse.ie or Mobile: (086) 815-7850
Longford/Westmeath : Eddie Ward: Email: eddie.ward@hse.ie or Mobile: (086) 380-1152
Admin Sec: Finola Henry: Email: finola.henry@hse.ie, Tel: 057 93 57807 / 086 815 7320.



Festival and Events Advice Pop Up Clinics for Longford

This month sees the inaugural AOIFE Festival and Events Advice Clinic roll into Longford to engage with the 40, plus Festivals and event organisers in the County.

AOIFE's Executive Director and Communications Assistant will be traversing the Country this season in an effort to meet local member Festival and event organisers. Modelled on other Network offerings – the POP Up Advice Clinics are facilitated locally to allow organisers meet AOIFE personnel and get a steer on some of their problems.

Founded in 1993- the Association of Irish Festivals and Events Association is the fourth largest in Europe (with over 200 members) and through training networking and advocating best practice helps “not for profit festivals” reach and expand their local and international goals.

The Clinics will deal with:

- The European Festival Labelling & Awards Programme
- Funding and Grant Applications
- Setting up a new Festival / Event
- Revenue and Sponsorship Opportunities
- Leader and Cluster support
- Association Development
- Social Media Mentoring
- Connections, Contacts and General Advice.

Participants MUST register with the AOIFE Secretariat in advance to book at 30 minute consultation during the time the team are there. The Advice Clinic Service is Free to members and non-members must pay a fee of €50.

Over 40 locations in 19 counties will be completed before Easter. A further 8 in Leinster and Ulster in April / May and the remaining 5 Ulster Counties will be visited in the early Autumn - affording may in the 200 plus network an ideal opportunity to meet and discuss face to face issues confronting their festival and event.

Priority will be given to member Festivals of the association but it's hoped the programme will give a chance for newer Festivals and Events in the non – profit sector to meet first hand with the Senior Team. “The first edition of the EFFE Label and Award 2015-2016 presented 761 festivals from 31 countries receiving the EFFE Label and 12 of the most trend-setting European festivals which received an EFFE Award. We don't want medium sized festivals to miss out on this opportunity to get recognition for their good work and get them to apply now for the EFFE Label 2017-2018!” stated Executive Director Colm Croffy. Funded and supported by the EU Commission – A.O.I.F.E. is one of 27 National Hubs for the Awards Scheme.

Being a selected festival means to your audience, your sponsors, your media, your local authorities that your festival programme and mission belongs to the outstanding and innovative group of festivals in the European Union and beyond. It also means networking in the EFFE Label Meet-up on 6 May 2017 in Frankfurt where you will meet your colleagues; and your festival gets visibility through a dynamic branding and media campaign that will promote the EFFE Community towards audiences across Europe. All participating festivals have a profile page on the EFFE website and are all part of the online EFFE Professional Community. Last but not least, EFA will animate this new international festivals community, allowing professionals to exchanges and interact with each other.



For Registration for your 30 minutes Advice Slot or your 30 minute Social Media Mentoring slot please contact Membership Officer Christina at 090 964 3779. Or see www.aoifeonline.com

The Advice Clinic will be held in Longford at the Longford Arms Hotel 3.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Monday 30th January.

Enterprise Ireland, the Government agency responsible for developing Irish business globally, reported that Enterprise Ireland client companies based in Longford created 281 jobs in 2016, bringing total employment by Enterprise Ireland clients to 2,886.

A total of 19,244 new jobs (full and part-time) in Enterprise Ireland supported businesses were created across the country in 2016. This brings the total number of people employed by Enterprise Ireland supported companies to 201,108 – breaking the 200,000 milestone of people employed in Enterprise Ireland supported companies for the first time ever.

Digital Technology, Construction and Fintech were the key performing sectors.

Mick Brougham, Enterprise Ireland’s Regional Director – Eastern and Midlands, said: “Despite global economic challenges in 2016, job creation by Irish companies in Longford remained strong. As these results show, Irish companies have the capacity to create jobs in towns and cities across the country, with almost two-thirds of the new jobs created outside Dublin. We aim to build on this success to ensure that Irish companies in every region in Ireland are well positioned to continue to succeed globally, particularly in the context of Brexit.”

Enterprise Ireland also published its 2017-2020 Strategy – Build Scale, Expand Reach. The strategy builds on the success of recent years and sets new, ambitious targets for jobs and export growth:

Exports - Grow exports by €5bn to €26bn per annum

Spend in economy - Increase spend in the Irish economy by €4bn to €27bn per annum

Jobs - Create 60,000 new jobs and sustain existing level of jobs

Key priorities for Enterprise Ireland will be:

- Driving innovation in Irish enterprise to unprecedented levels through new supports to reach the target of €1.25bn in R&D expenditure per annum by 2020.
- Improving the competitiveness of Irish companies through our Competitiveness and Lean programmes and new client engagement model, which will provide targeted supports.
- Increasing the reach of client company exports into new markets, with two-thirds of exports going beyond the UK.
- Major focus on the Eurozone, targeting a 50 per cent increase in exports.

The Lough Ree International Pike Classic

International entries now OPEN....for this fantastic competition in June 2017 and that cash prize fund of 10,000 euro30 Boats are being RETAINED for International Entries so - if you're overseas read this and go to <http://www.loughree.ie/> to download the application form .



The World's TOP anglers are returning to Lanesborough for

The Lough Ree International Pike Classic 2017

Saturday June 24th
& Sunday June 25th, 2017

On the renowned 2016 World Predator Boat Championship Fishery at Ballyleague, Lanesborough - Roscommon/Longford Border

Two days of world class fishing at a world class venue for top cash prizes, bonus prizes and much more to be announced...

A staggering prize & benefits fund of
€10,000

This event is organised by the Camlin & District Anglers Club for Lough Ree Angling Hub



4. [National News](#)

X-HALE 2017 Short Film Competition Open for Applications

The Irish Cancer Society are now inviting youth groups, clubs services, projects and centres to apply an X-HALE 2017 Short Film Competition grant.

The X-HALE Short Film Competition is an exciting opportunity for youth groups to create and promote a youth-led short-film that encourages young people to be smoke free.

Since 2011, The Irish Cancer Society has supported over 180 youth groups from all over Ireland to have their say about smoking and drive the movement towards a tobacco free Ireland.

If your youth organisation works with young people aged 10-24 and you are interested in receiving funding, resources and training to explore issues around young people and smoking, X-HALE wants to hear from you.

- Visit www.cancer.ie/xhale to learn more about X-HALE



- For more information about the X-HALE 2017 Short Film Competition and to submit a grant application please click [here](#)
- The closing date for grant applications is Wednesday 1 March 2017
- Please direct queries to schadwick@irishcancer.ie or (01)2316624.



Europe for Citizens Programme Opening & Free EU Funding Workshops

The Wheel is the National Contact Point in Ireland for the [Europe for Citizens Programme](#). Now open to proposals.

In order to increase the number of applications from Ireland, The Wheel will be running two free specialist workshops for those keen to submit an application to the programme. Details are as follows:

Civil Society Projects Workshop: Tuesday, 31 January (9.30am - 3pm) Dublin

Civil Society Projects should address the objectives of the programme and the current priorities: 1. Understanding and Debating Euro scepticism; 2. Solidarity in times of crisis; 3. Combating stigmatisation of "immigrants" and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue; 4. Debate on the future of Europe. Organisations must have two or more partners from other EU member states.

[Learn more & register here >>](#)

European Remembrance Workshop: Wednesday, 1 February (9.30am - 3pm) Dublin

European Remembrance should celebrate key moments in European twentieth century history. Organisations can create memory projects that make a connection between the past and the present - see the programme priorities [here](#). European partnerships are not essential but strongly encouraged.

[Learn more & register here >>](#)

5. [EU NEWS](#)

New €4m EU project supporting collaboration on coastal and heritage sites in Wales and Ireland

More than €4m of EU funds will help to safeguard heritage and coastal tourism sites in Wales and Ireland from the risks of climate change.



The funding will also provide a stimulus for marine-based economic growth in the two countries. Funded by the European Union's Ireland-Wales programme, the CHERISH project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands) will support specialist organisations in Wales and Ireland to employ cutting-edge technologies to analyse coastal and island archaeology and maritime heritage sites, which are most affected by climate change, coastal erosion and rising sea levels.

It will fund new excavations, environmental studies, marine mapping and landscape modelling. It will also support future strategies for climate change by providing a deeper understanding of longer-term changes to Wales and Ireland's heritage and coastal environments which attract thousands of visitors each year.

The collaborative research has the potential to help safeguard coastal and heritage sites from the risk of climate change and minimise negative impacts on local economies.

The project will also provide information to support the development of tourism opportunities through training and public events.

Tourism and heritage sites, such as the Pembrokeshire islands and the Llŷn Peninsula in Wales and the islands off the south and east coasts of Ireland will be the focus of the collaborative research.

Welsh Government Finance Secretary Mark Drakeford said:

"This project brings Wales and Ireland together to tackle some of our shared challenges around climate and environmental changes in our coastal regions.

"It's very important that heritage sites and assets under threat from climate change are protected, and I'm pleased this investment will also support new opportunities for the tourism sector in both nations."

Irish unemployment rate falls further below the EU average

The rate of unemployment in Ireland in November 2016 was 7.3%, down from 7.5% in October 2016 and from 9.1% in November 2015. In real terms, this means there were 36,000 fewer unemployed people in Ireland in November 2016 than a year earlier. Youth unemployment in Ireland was also down, from 20.2% in November 2015 to 15.4% in November 2016 putting it below the EU (18.8%) and Eurozone averages (21.2%). The unemployment rate for the EU was 8.3% in November 2016, down from 8.4% in October 2016 and from 9.0% in November 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since February 2009. The countries with the lowest unemployment rates were: Czech Republic (3.7%) and Germany (4.1%). Greece (23.1% in September 2016) and Spain (19.2%) had the highest rates.
(source: EU News you can use)

6. UPCOMING TRAINING/WORKSHOPS

The Wheel

Leaders for Change - Certificate in Non Profit Leadership and Management

Duration: 1 year

NFQ Level: Certificate

Fee: €1,500



The **Leaders for Change Level 9** programme is aimed at improving specific managerial and leadership competencies for managers and executives in Irish non-profit organisations. The course combines academic evidence-based practices with practitioner-led knowledge and skills.

Awards & Progressions

This course is a Special Purpose Award at level 9 (15 ECTS credits), Learners who complete these modules on this programme may wish to transfer their credits as part of a continuing pathway to the MSc at a future date.

[Learn more here >>](#)

Certificate in Project Management and Implementation Science

Duration: 1 year

NFQ Level: Certificate

Fee: €1,150

Organisations in the nonprofit sector are increasingly being asked to provide evidence for the approaches that they use in their work or for particular programmes. This course teaches participants how to use modern research techniques to develop an evidence base for their work. The course will also equip you to use this research to implement changes to existing programmes based on the research evidence.

Awards & Progressions

This is a Special Purpose Award level 9 (10 ECTS credits). Learners who complete the modules on this programme may wish to transfer their credits as part of a continuing pathway to the MSc in Non-Profit Management at a future date.

[Learn more here >>](#)

Certificate in Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Duration: 1 year

NFQ Level: Certificate

Fee: €1,150

Using the key skills from business, entrepreneurship and the non-profit sector this course will support you in understanding how to develop and test a model for a new social business or to realign a business model for an existing organisation or enterprise. The skills developed on the programme will ensure you are ready to work in the social enterprise sector having gained the knowledge and skills to develop and implement best practice enterprise strategies.



Awards & Progressions

This course is a Special Purpose Award at level 9 (10 ECTS Credits). Learners who complete the modules on this programme may wish to transfer their credits as part of a continuing pathway to the MSc at a future date.

[Learn more here >>](#)

General Information

Learners who complete these certificates can transfer their credits as part of a continuing pathway to the upcoming MSc in Non Profit Management.

Contact Regina Dunne with any specific queries you may have: regina.dunne@ncirl.ie

[Visit the NCI website >>](#)

[Download the programme brochure >>](#)

7. FUNDING

Music Network - Music Capital Scheme

The Music Network Music Capital Scheme is designed to provide support for the purchase of musical instruments, and respond to a broad range of capital needs within the music sector in Ireland.

Scheme Details

Status: Open

Grant Range: Up to €1,000 and Up to €5,000

Funding Source: Statutory

Cash Type: Capital Revenue

Exclusions: This scheme is aimed at providing instruments for rehearsal and performance. It is not designed to provide instruments used exclusively for tuition.

The Music Capital Scheme, supported by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and managed by Music Network, provides funding for the purchase of musical instruments to both non-professional performing groups/ensembles and professional musicians.

The Music Capital Scheme 2016 will close 12 pm Thursday 26th January 2017.

In 2016, financial support will be offered in two distinct streams:

STREAM 1: Instrument Banks

Support for the purchase of instruments for non-professional groups/ensembles such as brass and silver bands, concert bands, symphonic wind ensembles, pipe bands, céilí bands, youth/amateur orchestras and ensembles, fife and drum (and other marching) bands, big bands, choirs, community music groups, percussion and samba bands, pop/rock music collectives, traditional music groups/organisations, musical societies, venues, local authorities, resource/community/youth organisations.



STREAM 2: Individual Instruments

This stream is designed to provide support for highly-skilled performing musicians working at a professional level, who seek support for the purchase of high-quality instruments that are central to their performing career. The total fund may be allocated to one musician or it may be divided among a number of performers. Musicians are invited to submit an application form for Stream 2. Musicians who are selected for support will have up to ten months to purchase an instrument. Funding awarded will be drawn down once a suitable instrument has been sourced.

Eligibility

Due to the limited funds available, the below have been strategically prioritised for support in 2016, as follows:

- Applications from Government-designated RAPID areas (Stream 1)
- Applicants who can demonstrate their participation in the Public Service Education Dividend under the Arts-in-Education Charter (Stream 2) i.e. "Individual artists funded from the public purse, including those in receipt of the artists' tax exemption, shall donate at least 2 hours each per annum to a local education initiative." The full Arts-in-Education Charter document can be read at www.education.ie .

Lower priority/ineligible groups

Under the 2016 awards:

- Schools and other educational institutes, although eligible to apply, will not be prioritised
- Music Education Partnerships in receipt of Music Generation funding at time of application deadline are not eligible to apply
- For-profit companies are not eligible to apply
- Individual minors under the age of 18 are not eligible to apply (Stream 2).
- Individuals may not apply to Stream 1
- Music Capital Scheme 2013, 2014 or 2015 awardees who have been not been compliant with the conditions of the award(s) are not eligible to apply.

How to Apply

[Download full application details and full guidelines here.](#)

Social Innovation Fund Ireland - Education Fund

Social Innovation Fund Ireland's Education Fund is open to projects that are focused on improving educational outcomes (at QQI Level 6 or higher from the National Framework of Qualifications) for those experiencing educational disadvantage.

Scheme Details

Status: Open

Grant Range: Up to €1,000, Up to €5,000, Up to €60,000

Funding Source: Trust / Foundation

Cash Type: Revenue



Social Innovation Fund Ireland's Education Fund is open to projects that are focused on improving educational outcomes (at QQI Level 6 or higher from the National Framework of Qualifications) for those experiencing educational disadvantage. Projects are likely to focus on students at the upper end of second level or starting higher education. Educational disadvantage that arises from living in a disadvantaged area, socio-economic disadvantage, experiencing mental health or other health issues, or disability are all relevant to this Fund.

WHY EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE?

Education and related qualifications determine to a large extent the life chances of people. Those who leave education without qualifications are hindered in their ability to find well-paying jobs and as a result are more at risk of poverty. The number of people with educational disadvantage achieving accreditations to QQI level 6, or higher, is disproportionately low when compared with the national norm, despite many government and other initiatives to combat this. Social Innovation Fund Ireland's goal via the Education Fund is to improve access to 3rd level education (QQI Level 6 & above) for students affected by disability or disadvantage, through improved educational attainment.

WHAT DOES THE EDUCATION FUND OFFER?

Social Innovation Fund Ireland believes that there are many innovative local projects that tackle educational disadvantage but which fail to grow and spread. With this in mind the education fund aims to address this by:

- Providing funding to organisations who can provide evidence of having secured match private or philanthropic funding for the duration of the proposed project (Minimum €10,000)
- Convene the best projects together annually to share learnings
- Provide projects with the opportunity to participate in a cluster evaluation
- Provide projects with a platform to showcase their work at a closing event.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECT IS THE EDUCATION FUND LOOKING FOR?

Applicants should be able to demonstrate how their project will improve educational attainment for those experiencing educational disadvantage.

Applicant projects should also be able to demonstrate that they have secured private or philanthropic funding for the period proposed, and that the programme cannot be carried out without the matching funding of SIFI. Please note that SIFI will retain a percentage of the matching funding for administrative costs.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE

Applicants must meet Social Innovation Fund Ireland standard criteria and specific criteria for the Education Fund, set out below.

SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND IRELAND STANDARD CRITERIA

- The project must address a critical social issue – in this case educational disadvantage



- The solution proposed must be innovative in an Irish context.
- The solution must have potential and a desire to scale or replicate in Ireland (it may also have potential internationally, but this is not a requirement).
- The solution must provide evidence that it is up and running, or have been tested at least in a minimal way.
- That it is based on the island of Ireland and will make its main impact in the Republic of Ireland
- Applicants must come from an entity that has a not for profit legal form e.g. school, charity, social enterprise or higher education institutes.

EDUCATION FUND SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- Applicants should be projects that are focused at second level education and/or entry stage of higher level education
- The project must be able to demonstrate that it has secured private or philanthropic funding, of at least €10,000 per year, for the period of its proposed project, and that the programme cannot be carried out without the matching funding of Social Innovation Fund Ireland
- The project will be able to demonstrate improved educational attainment leading to better educational outcomes.

SELECTION CRITERIA – PREFERRED PROJECTS WILL ALSO DEMONSTRATE

- A Programme with a research & evaluation component, especially a link to a University or a QQI Level 6 accredited institution
- Projects with a proposed 3-5 year duration with funding secured for the proposed timeframe
- Projects that seek to address gaps in numeracy or literacy or those that extend beyond the standard Curriculum – through Arts, 21st Century skills etc
- Those that employ a holistic approach – whole school, community and/or parental involvement
- Proposals that include attainable and measurable targets and outcomes (short term and medium term goals) in relation to educational attainment and that drive towards improved access to or retention at 3rd level (QQI Level 6 & above).

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Education Fund will accept applications from

- Not for Profits
- Charities
- Schools
- Higher Education Institutes.

How to Apply

Social Innovation Fund Ireland is open for applications from November 2016 until 24th February 2017. The Education Fund application form is available on its dedicated page [here](#). Candidates are expected to be available for interviews in March 2017.

Awardees will be expected to:



- Complete progress reports on their activities (two per year)
- Submit an annual report on educational attainment outcomes
- Attend an annual convening to share learning
- Participate in an external evaluation
- Submit financial reports annually.

Important Dates

| Explanation of deadline | Reason | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Deadline for applications | Closing (temporarily) | 24 Feb 2017 |

Waterways Ireland - Heritage in the Community Grants Programme

The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides, for the first time, a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of our waterways.

Scheme Details

Status: Open

Grant Range: Up to €1,000 AND Up to €5,000

Funding Source: Statutory

Cash Type: Revenue

Waterways Ireland is delighted to announce the launch of its 2017 Heritage in the Community Grants programme in support of the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020.

The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides, for the first time, a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of our waterways. We envisage this Plan will provide a platform over the coming 5 years for meaningful and honest engagement with our stakeholders, whom all have the shared goal of protecting this treasured heritage asset.

A fund of €20,000 has been allocated to assist community-based heritage projects which will compliment or fulfil the delivery of the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan along the Barrow Navigation, Erne System, Grand Canal, Lower Bann, Royal Canal, Shannon Navigation, Shannon-Erne Waterway, and the Ulster Canal (Upper Lough Erne to Clones).

Eligibility

Applications will be considered from communities, individuals and organisations seeking assistance for projects related to inland waterways' heritage. This can include data collection & research, good heritage practice in managing sites, collections, objects, etc. and support fresh approaches and initiatives that promote active engagement with heritage.

A range of criteria will be used to assess the applications including how well the project compliments or fulfils an action of the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020, the extent to which proposed activities benefit local heritage, the level of innovation and the capacity of applicants to carry out the proposed



project. Some types of support will not be considered under the Waterways Ireland's Heritage Grant Scheme. The Application Form and Guidelines should be reviewed for clear information on project eligibility. Only one grant per organisation is permitted. Grants up to €1,500 / £1,200 are available.

How to Apply

Click here for more information and to download your application form.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is January,31 2017 (by email or post).

Important Dates

| Explanation of deadline | Reason | <u>Date</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Deadline for applications</u> | Closing (temporarily) | 31 Jan 2017 |

St Stephens Green Trust - General / Small Grants

St Stephen's Green Trust is a grant-giving organisation which supports organisations working in Ireland to improve the lives of people who are affected by poverty/disadvantage and social exclusion.

Scheme Details

Status: Open

Grant Range: Up to €1,000, Up to €5,000 Up to €60,000

Funding Source: Trust / Foundation

Cash Type: Revenue

The general grants programme 2017 invites applications from organisations seeking to work in three areas: prisoners/ex-prisoners and their families; male Travellers and homelessness. Grant criteria are detailed so please read the guidelines carefully. If your application doesn't fit within these areas it is unlikely we can fund it due to demand. Please also note the restriction around organisational income limits detailed below.

In addition to the thematic areas outlined below and in line with our current strategy our general focus will be on initiatives which are about demonstrating what works, social analysis and developing a user voice to effect positive social change. Projects should be ideas-driven – embracing new thinking, invention and innovation. We have a particular interest in supporting work in partnership with others and for which there are few opportunities for funding.

grants focus areas

Prisoners / ex-prisoners and their families: Applications are invited from organisations working with prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. We consider progressive initiatives focused on new approaches for: alternatives to custody; in-prison supports; through-the-gate supports; the availability of options to integrate the ex-prisoner back into society and initiatives working with prisoners’ families. Projects should



include reflection and social analysis in the application, which allows the organisation to demonstrate what works or doesn't work. Information gathered should be used to influence policy development and to effect change on some of the more difficult issues facing prisoners/ex-prisoners and their families. Development projects or start-up initiatives need to have a clear basis for future sustainability.

Travellers: We focus on supporting work with Traveller men - we have a particular interest in locally-based projects seeking to increase the participation of male Travellers in the development of their own community, including initiatives breaking new ground in family support, culturally-appropriate employment initiatives and personal development. We are interested in initiatives which improve literacy levels and educational progression and projects which support physical and mental health. We encourage fresh thinking around enduring issues and applications should include a pathway to sharing the learning at all levels.

Homelessness: We have limited capacity to support work on homelessness and are not in a position to fund general provision of services. We will consider initiatives which seek to find new solutions to the current crisis in homelessness and disseminating what works. These initiatives should include social analysis, policy development and interventions which contribute to long term solutions to the current crisis.

Technical assistance: The Trust will consider providing small amounts of funding to support small low-capacity organisations wishing to develop project proposals (which fit the general grant programme criteria), particularly those being developed on a collaborative basis. The funding can assist with payments to consultants/facilitators but not staff time. Costs which can be applied for include costs of convening a group to develop approaches, incidentals of meetings, study visits (within Ireland and the UK) and other supports to develop coherent and informed proposals. Maximum grants will be in the region of €1,500 with a lower average expected. Applications are through a one-page application form, available directly from the Trust. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis. Project proposals developed will need to meet the normal deadline dates for the general grant programme.

organisational income limits

The Trust does not accept applications from organisations with annual income (from all sources) above €500,000. This refers to the legal organisation, not just the department or regional office which might be making the application. Please check this carefully before you apply and if you're not sure check with the CEO or accountant. The limited exceptions to this criterion is detailed below.

How to Apply

The Trust operates a two-step process. An application form (see below) should be filled out and emailed to the Trust by Thursday 9th February 2017. An initial assessment will be made, following which a decision will be emailed to you by 17th Feb. If the initial assessment is successful, you will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal. Decisions on final applications will be made by 7th April 2017 following which funded projects can begin.

We encourage applicants to contact us before completing the application form to ensure the project meets the Trust's criteria. We will be happy to talk through your potential application or respond to an email and give direction on the type of projects and organisations which the Trustees will support.



We receive many more applications than we can support, and we examine each to assess the likelihood of it making a difference within your area of work. Assessment Criteria include the following:

- AC1: Does the proposal meet the grant programme focus areas? How does it rate in terms of: including a policy element; developing fresh thinking and analysis of issues; addressing ‘harder’, critical issues; building individual or organisational leadership; prompting invention and analysis; building institutional linkages and leaving some form of legacy, however small. We understand projects are unlikely to meet all these criteria.
- AC2: How robust is the organisation’s Theory of Change? What evidence is there the organisation has reflected on the approach it is taking, has a clear idea of the project objectives and a vision for how it is going to achieve them?
- AC3: Does the organisation already have a track record in doing this type of work – if not, what expert support has it leveraged to enable it to develop a good practice approach?
- AC4: Does the project design give a reasonable assurance the objectives will be met – do the resources available match what the project is trying to achieve?
- AC5: Has the organisation set out the specific actions it will carry out to achieve the objectives and is there a way of measuring those actions to determine if they were successful in achieving the objectives? Is the organisation clear about what constitutes success?
- AC6: Is the organisation being strategic in leveraging resources from other organisations such as statutory or voluntary bodies which could help the project achieve its objectives? Have all available voluntary or in-kind resources been explored which could boost available resources?
- AC7: Does the budget match the narrative in the application, are the figures realistic?
- AC8: Is there evidence of inclusion of beneficiaries in the design of the project?

Check the guidelines carefully to ensure you are eligible.

Fill out the application form and follow the detailed instructions about submitting an emailed application.

[Visit website now >>](#)

Queries to: SSGT office: Tel: 045 480 666 or email info@ssgt.ie

Important Dates

| Explanation of deadline | Reason | <u>Date</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Deadline for applications</u> | Closing (temporarily) | 9 Feb 2017 |

Sports Capital Grant Opens for Applications

The 2017 Sports Capital Programme will be open for applications from 9am on Monday 23 January 2017.

The deadline for registration is 5pm on Friday 10 February 2017.



If your organisation is not registered on OSCAR by 5pm on 10 February 2017, you will *not* be able to make an application. If your organisation has already registered, you do not need to register again.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 24 February 2017. The online system will be shut down at this time and no late or partial applications will be accepted.

The 2017 guide to filling out the online application form, including the terms and conditions pertaining to applications, is [available here >>](#)

General Background

The Sports Capital Programme is the Government's primary vehicle for supporting the development of sports facilities and the purchase of non-personal sports equipment.

The programme funds:

- Natural grass sports pitches, tracks and courts (including pitch drainage)
- Floodlighting
- Artificial sports pitches, tracks, courts and multi-use games areas
- Security fencing, ball stop netting and goal posts
- Hurling walls / handball alleys
- Building or refurbishment of dressing rooms, showers and toilets
- Building or refurbishment of sports halls and gyms
- Non-personal equipment including lawn mowers and defibrillators. Anything set in the ground (such as goal posts) is not considered equipment.
- Any other capital projects that are clearly sporting in nature and that will increase participation in sport or improve performance.

www.dttas.ie/sport/english/sports-capital-programme

Is your group holding an event or has your group news you would like to share with the wider Longford Community?

Then why not promote it in this eBulletin?

Just email, post or call to us (contact info above)

For inclusion in the Feb/March 2017 edition of the PPN eBulletin

Compiled by

Siobhan Cronogue

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Sources: Longford PPN community groups ,EU News, DOECLG, Longford County Childcare, Longford Co. Council, Longford Leader, Environmental Pillar, Social Justice Ireland and other sources with many thanks!